

Special Issue Honouring Helias Udo de Haes: Editorial

Helias A. Udo De Haes: A Practical Scientist

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This Special Issue of Int J LCA is honouring Helias Udo de Haes, who will retire from his Chair at Leiden University this summer. We are grateful to Int J LCA for providing and sponsoring the opportunity to pay our respect to Helias' numerous contributions to the field of, particularly, LCA.

In his contributions to the field of LCA, Helias has always tried to combine science with pragmatism, which explains the title of this Editorial. Amongst others, this is reflected by the careers he had within SETAC, ISO and the UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative. Many people got to know him quite well through these secondary careers and learned to appreciate his tireless efforts to move LCA further forward.

For this honouring issue, we have invited contributions from a selected number of colleagues and friends that Helias has left from his various careers. Their contributions reflect several developments that have been and are still taking place within the dynamic world of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

In recognition of Helias' many contributions to the LCA community, we have tried to put together a series of papers in this issue reflecting the topics that have received the inter-

est of Helias A. Udo de Haes during the last decade. This honouring issue presents papers discussing the relationship between LCA and other environmental assessment tools, such as substance flow analysis (SFA) and multi-criteria decision analysis. Another topic of Helias' specific interest is the development of new methodologies within common LCA boundaries, particularly in the field of life cycle impact assessment (LCIA). Various articles and columns discuss recent developments in LC(I)A-database development, abiotic depletion, substance-related impacts, and mid-point weighting. Although Helias has, over the years, been reluctant to unlimitedly broaden the scope of LCA, his growing interest in the social and economic dimension of product life cycles is reflected by three papers discussing recent developments in this research area. Finally, the important international role of Helias in LCA development is reflected in two papers and two columns discussing the past, present and future of LCA.

We believe that this Special Issue of Int J LCA highlights the enormous progress that has been made in the scientific underpinning of LCA and the important contribution of Helias to a developable framework of LCA.